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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Government call for a report from the District Educational Officers to confirm that weightage has been given on proper lines to all teachers?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : If the hon. Member would put a separate question, I can answer.

* 44 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the minimum guaranteed benefit of five rupees in the refixation of salaries for teachers in elementary schools has been sanctioned; and

(*b*) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) Under the rules for refixation of salaries, the minimum benefit of Rs. 5 is guaranteed only to teachers who had completed three years of regular service on 1st June 1960. There have been no complaints that this minimum benefit has been denied to any teacher who was entitled to it.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Is it not one of the recommendations of the Pay Commission that even persons under three years of service should get the benefit of Rs. 5, including menials, on 1st June 1960?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I would like to have notice.

Provident Fund accounts

* 45 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Provident Fund accounts of retrenched teachers absorbed in the Madras Corporation Elementary Schools in 1959 have been transferred to the Corporation; and

(*b*) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) Out of 69 teachers who were subscribers to the Teachers Provident Fund, 53 have joined the General Provident Fund in the Corporation. The remaining teachers have not yet been absorbed into the General Provident Fund Scheme, since they have not applied for admission to the scheme.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are all teachers who were thus absorbed eligible for the scheme irrespective of the fact that they have not yet been confirmed under the Corporation?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The number of retrenched teachers appointed during the year 1959–60 was 126. Out of them 69 were subscribers to the Teachers' Provident Fund in aided schools before they joined the Corporation service. Out of the 69, as I have stated, 53 have joined the General Provident Fund in the Corporation. The others have not yet exercised their option.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : The total amount to the credit of the teachers is with the Corporation. Are the teachers free to withdraw these amounts as they have no further contributory system?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I would like to have notice.

Clinical laboratories

* 46 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the clinical laboratories attached to Government institutions are not open to private medical practitioners; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : (*a*) The clinical laboratories attached to Government Medical institutions are open to private medical practitioners also.

(*b*) Does not arise.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact that certain medical practitioners when they referred cases to the clinical laboratories of the various State hospitals here, were refused the facility by the gentleman in charge of those laboratories?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : There is no such information with the Government. If the hon. Member brings to the notice of the Government any specific instance, that will be looked into.

Director of Public Health

* 47 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon .the Minister for Health be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 536 on 16th December 1961 the reasons for the re-employment of the present Director of Public Health?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : The re-employment was ordered in the exigencies of public service.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : How many times was this gentleman re-employed?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : This is the third extension that has been given to him.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Are there very much qualified people under him?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : There may be qualified people, but at the moment I do not think that question arises.